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**REPRESENTATION** from the Commissioners for trade and plantations, to the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled, in pursuance of their Lordships' addresses to His Majesty of the 1st and 5th of April, 1734, relating to the State of the British Islands in America, with regard to their trade, their strength and fortifications, and to what may be further necessary for the encouragement of their trade, and security of those Islands: As likewise to such encouragements as may be necessary to engage the inhabitants of the British Colonies on the Continent in America, to apply their industry to the

cultivation of Naval stores of all kinds, and of such other products as may be proper for the soil of the said Colonies, and do not interfere with the trade or produce of Great Britain. *London*, printed by John Baskett, 1734. *Half morocco, very rare*

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*1970*

Edwin K. Kibman

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Die Martis, 18 Febr. 1734.

**O**Rdered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, *That the Representation of the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, laid before this House the 13th Day of this Instant February, in Obedience to His Majesty's Commands, pursuant to their Lordships Addresses to His Majesty of the 1st and 5th Days of April last, relating to the State of the British Islands in America, with regard to their Trade, their Strength, and Fortifications, and to what may be further necessary for the Encouragement of their Trade, and Security of those Islands: As likewise to such Encouragements as may be necessary to engage the Inhabitants of the British Colonies, ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Continent in America, to apply their Industry to the Cultivation of Naval Stores of all kinds, and of such other Products as may be proper for the Soil of the said Colonies, and do not interfere with the Trade or Produce of Great Britain, be forthwith Printed.*

W<sup>m</sup> Cowper,  
Cler<sup>y</sup> Parliamentor<sup>y</sup>

# REPRESENTATION

FROM THE

COMMISSIONERS for TRADE and  
PLANTATIONS,

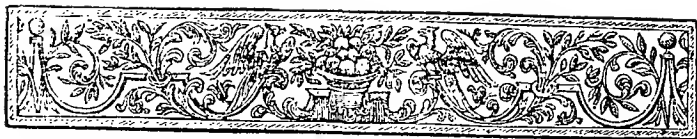
To the Right Honourable the  
Lords Spiritual and Temporal,  
In Parliament Assembled,

In pursuance of their Lordships Addresses to His Majesty of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of *April*, 1734. relating to the State of the *British* Islands in *America*, with regard to their TRADE, their STRENGTH, and FORTIFICATIONS, and to what may be further necessary for the Encouragement of their Trade, and Security of those Islands: As likewise to such Encouragements as may be necessary to engage the Inhabitants of the *British* Colonies on the Continent in *America*, to apply their Industry to the Cultivation of Naval Stores of all kinds, and of such other Products as may be proper for the Soil of the said Colonies, and do not interfere with the Trade or Produce of *Great Britain*.

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L O N D O N :

Printed by JOHN BASKETT, Printer to the King's  
most Excellent Majesty. 1734.



To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual  
and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

*May it please Your Lordships,*



IS Majesty hath been pleased by His Orders of the Fifth and Sixth of *April*, 1734, upon Your Lordships Addreses of the First and Fifth of the same Month, to direct the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations to prepare, during the Recess of Parliament, and lay before your Lordships at your next Meeting, a State of the *British Islands* in *America*, with Regard to their Trade, their Strength, and Fortifications, together with their Opinion what may be further necessary for the Encouragement of their Trade, and Security of those Islands; and also to revise and consider the several Proposals that may at any time have been laid before them, relating to such Encouragements as may be necessary to engage the Inhabitants of the *British Colonies* on the Continent in *America*, to apply their Industry to the Cultivation of Naval Stores of all kinds, and likewise of such other Products as may be proper for the Soil of the said Colonies, and do not interfere with the Trade or Produce of *Great Britain*.

In treating these Subjects, we shall follow the Order observed by your Lordships in your Addreses to His Majesty, which leads us to begin with what relates to the Trade, the Strength, and Fortifications of our Island Colonies in *America*, namely, *Jamaica*, *Barbadoes*, the *Leeward Islands*, the *Bahama's*, and the *Bermuda* or *Summer Islands*, of which the Three first mentioned are called *Sugar Colonies*, and are of great Importance to the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom.

The Trade of *Jamaica* consists in an Exchange of its Productions and Merchandize, for the Manufactures and Merchandize of *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, *Africa*, the *British Colonies* on the Continent of *America*, *Madagascar*, and the Bay of *Honduras*.

The principal Articles that we export thither, are Woollen Cloths and  
 Stuffs of all Sorts, wrought Silks, plain and brocaded, Hats of various  
 B kinds,

kinds, Leather both tanned and wrought, *German* and *Dutch* Linens, Cordage, Bees-wax, several sorts of Drugs and Grocery, Paper, Wine, Soap, Tea, Coffee, Arrack, *East India* Silks, Stuffs and Calicoes, and several other Particulars of less Consideration.

In Exchange for these Goods, the People of *Jamaica* furnish us with the natural Productions and Merchandize of that Island, Sugar, Rum, and Molasses, Cotton, Piemento (commonly called *Jamaica Pepper*) Ginger, Fustick, Ebony, *Lignum Vitæ*, Mahogany, with many other kinds of valuable Timber and Wood proper for Dying, and for the Use of our Cabinet-makers, and Carpenters; we likewise import Indigo from *Jamaica*, which was formerly a Production of that Island, but is now brought thither from the *French Colonies*.

The annual Amount of our Exports to *Jamaica*, at a Medium of Four Years from *Christmas*, 1728, to *Christmas*, 1732, as it stands computed in the Custom House Accounts, appears to have been *L.* 147,675 2 3½

The Medium of our Imports from *Jamaica* in the same Year, is \_\_\_\_\_ *L.* 539,499 18 3½

So that the annual Excess of our Imports in that Period is no less than \_\_\_\_\_ *L.* 391,824 15 11½

But it must not be imagined, that this Excess is a Debt upon *Great Britain* to the Island of *Jamaica*; a Part of it must be placed to the Account of Negroes sent to the *Spanish West Indies* by our *South Sea Company*, the Produce of which is returned to *England* by way of *Jamaica*; another Part of the Debt due to our *African* Traders, from the People of *Jamaica*, for the Negroes, which are purchased and remain there for the Service of the Island; a Third Proportion must be placed to the Account of our Northern Colonies on the Continent of *America*, who discharge part of their Balance with *Great Britain*, by Consignments from *Jamaica*, arising from the Provisions and Lumber with which they supply that Island, all which will appear more fully in the following Articles: The remaining Part of the Excess, in our Importations from this Colony, is Profit made upon our Trade, whether immediately from *Great Britain*, or by way of *Africa*; and lastly, it is a Consideration of great Importance in the General Trade of *Great Britain*, that part of the Sugar and other Merchandize which we bring from *Jamaica*, is re-exported from hence, and helps to make good our Balance in Trade with other Countries in *Europe*.

The Particulars with which *Jamaica* is supplied from the *British Colonies of North America*, are, Flour, Biscuit, Corn, Beef, Pork, Butter, Salt, Fish, Rice, Staves, Hoops, Timber in several Shapes, and Horses; great Part of which is paid for in Rum, Sugar, Molasses, Ginger, with other Productions and Merchandize of the Island, and the Balance discharged with Money, some Part of which, as hath been already observed, is remitted to *Great Britain*.

From



From the Coast of *Africa* large Numbers of Negroes are carried to *Jamaica*, of which many are re-exported from thence by the *South Sea* Company, to make good their *Affiento* Contract with the *Spaniards*; another Part of them are re-exported by Private Traders, both to the *Spanish* and *French* Settlements in their Neighbourhood; some are sent to the *British* Colonies in *North America*, and the rest are purchased by the People of the Island, to carry on their Sugar Works and Plantations.

We cannot enumerate the Particulars which *Ireland* exchanges with *Jamaica*, our Office not being supplied with Custom House Accounts from that Kingdom; but in general it appears, from Accounts transmitted to us by the Naval Officers in *Jamaica*, that *Ireland* has always supplied that Island with large Quantities of Beef, Pork, Butter, and other Provisions; for which it is to be presumed, the Returns are generally made to this Kingdom, because the People of *Ireland* have not, till very lately, been allowed to bring Home any Part of the Product of the Plantations directly to *Ireland*, and even, at this time, are restrained to such Commodities, as are not enumerated in our Acts of Navigation.

From the Island of *Madera* the People of *Jamaica* import large Quantities of Wine; and from the Bay of *Honduras* they are supplied with great Quantities of Logwood, in Exchange for Provisions and other Necessaries which they furnish to the Logwood Cutters.

With Regard to the Strength and Fortifications of *Jamaica*, the Military Establishment there consists of Nine Regiments of Militia, with their superior and subaltern Officers, all of them commissioned by the Governor, agreeable to an Act of Assembly, for regulating the Militia in this Island.

By our last Returns from the Governor of *Jamaica* upon this Subject, it appears that in 1730, the Number of White Inhabitants did not exceed 7,644 Persons, and the Militia, including Horse and Foot, was then computed at 3,000 Men, dispersed over all the inhabited Part of the Island.

For some Years past there have been Two Independent Companies of His Majesty's Forces quartered in *Jamaica*; and His Majesty hath lately been pleased to order Six other Independent Companies, of One hundred Men each, to be transported thither for the Defence and Protection of this Colony.

There are Six Forts in *Jamaica*, the principal of which is *Fort Charles* at *Port Royal*, lately rebuilt, and in a good State of Defence: The Second is called the *Rock Fort* upon the Harbour of *Kingston*: There is a Third lately built at *Port Antonio*; and the other Three which are called *Fort William*, *Fort Morant*, and the *Fort* at *Carlisle Bay*, are in very bad Repair.

*Fort Charles* has a Captain and a Lieutenant, with other subaltern Officers, and Twelve Gunners: There is a Captain of the Train of Artillery

Artillery in *Spanish Town* ; and we are in constant Expectation of hearing, that proper Officers are appointed for the new Fortification at *Port Antonio* ; which is all that we have to offer to your Lordships, in Answer to that Part of your Address, which relates to the present State of the Trade, the Strength, and Fortifications of *Jamaica*.



*We come now to give your Lordships an Account of the like Particulars, with Regard to the Island of Barbadoes, which was settled more early, and hath been improved with more Industry and Vigour, than any other of His Majesty's Territories in America.*

THE Islands comprized in His Majesty's Commission to the Governor of this Colony, are, *Barbadoes*, *S<sup>a</sup> Lucia*, *Dominico*, *St. Vincent's*, *Tobago*, and the rest of His Majesty's Islands, Colonies, and Plantations in *America*, commonly called by the Name of the *Charibbee Islands*, lying to the Windward of *Guardaloupe* ; but of these only the Island of *Barbadoes* is regularly settled, whose natural Productions are, Rum, and Molosses, Ginger, Cotton, Aloes, and several kinds of Fruits.

Sugar is the principal Commodity in the Trade of this Island, which consists in an Exchange of that, and its other Productions, for the Manufactures and Merchandize of *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, and the *British Colonies* on the Continent of *America*, and Slaves from *Africa*.

The general Exports from *Great Britain* to *Barbadoes*, between *Christmas*, 1728, and *Christmas*, 1732, according to their Valuation in the Custom House Books, amounted, at a Medium of those Years, to ———— *L.* 85,780 15 7 *per Ann.*

Our Imports from *Barbadoes*, at a like Medium of the same Years, amounted to ———— *L.* 246,599 13 10  $\frac{1}{4}$

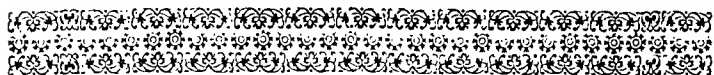
Therefore the annual Excess of our Imports from this Colony, during that Period, was ———— *L.* 160,818 18 3  $\frac{1}{4}$

There is little or no Variation between the Commodities which *Barbadoes* receives from *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, or our Northern Colonies in *America*, and those which we have already enumerated to your Lordships under the Title of *Jamaica* ; and the Excess of our Imports from *Barbadoes* must be accounted for in the same manner, by Money due to *Great Britain* from our *American Colonies*, and for Slaves brought to *Barbadoes* by our *African* Traders.

With

With Regard to the Strength and Fortifications of this Island, which being the most Windward of all His Majesty's Colonies in *America*, is therefore of very great Importance, on Account of its Situation : It appears from the Answers we received to our general Queries, from the Governor of this Colony, in the Year 1724, that there were in *Barbadoes* no less than 22 Castles and Forts, and 26 Batteries mounted with 463 Pieces of Ordnance ; but it was computed at that time, that about 100 Pieces of Cannon were wanting to compleat the Fortifications ; that most of the Cannon in the Island were honey-combed ; all the Fortifications in a ruinous Condition ; and all the Military Stores and Arms in the Magazines gone to decay ; all which having been lately represented to the King, by the present Governor and Council of *Barbadoes*, it is not to be doubted, but that His Majesty will be pleased to give proper Directions thereupon.

The Militia of this Colony consists of one Troop, two Regiments of Horse, and seven Regiments of Foot, of which, two bear the Title of Guards. The Number of Men contained in these Corps is always relative to that of the White Inhabitants ; for by the Act of Militia, all Freemen are obliged to enter themselves in the Regiment of their own District. In 1724, there were 18,295 White Persons in *Barbadoes*, amongst whom they reckoned 4,812 Men able to bear Arms, which was therefore the Number of the Militia ; and these, with a few Matrosses and Gunners, for the Management of their Batteries, is all the Military Force of this Island.



## *We now come to give your Lordships an Account of the Leeward Islands.*

THE Territories which compose His Majesty's Government of the *Leeward Islands*, are, *Antigua*, *St. Christopher's*, *Nevis*, and *Mountserrat*, with their Dependencies ; *Barbouda*, and *Anguilla*, *Spanish Town*, *Tortola*, and the rest of the *Virgin Islands*.

The Commerce of these Colonies is almost entirely the same with that of *Barbadoes* ; They have Trade with *Great Britain*, and *Ireland*, the *British Colonies of North America*, *Madera*, and *Africa* ; and the Goods they import from these Countries, and exchange with them, are of the same kinds with those enumerated under the Titles of *Jamaica* and *Barbadoes*.

The annual Value of our Exports to the *Leeward Islands*, between *Christmas*, 1728. and *Christmas*, 1732. amounted, at a Medium of those Years, to ————— L. 69,410 15 9 $\frac{1}{2}$   
C The

The Medium of our Imports from those Colonies, during the same Period, was ———— *L.* 642,269 9 6½

So that the annual Excess of the latter, was — *L.* 572,858 13 9 which must be accounted for in the same manner with the Excess of our Imports from *Barbadoes*.

*Ireland* supplies the *Leeward Islands* with Beef, Pork, Butter, Herrings, and Salmon, as likewise with Linen Manufactured in that Kingdom, to the Amount, as it has been computed, of 40,000 *l.* per Annum, the Value of which is balanced by the Sugar and other Productions of those Countries, returned to *Great Britain*.

On the Coast of *Africa*, the People of the *Leeward Islands* have sometimes purchased Negroes with their own Rum, which is a valuable Commodity in *Guinea*, and with the Goods which they import from *Great Britain* for that Purpose.

At the *Maderas*, they buy large Quantities of Wine, which they pay for with Negroes and Provisions, or by Bills of Exchange drawn upon *London*.

To the *British Colonies* in *North America*, they send Rum and Molasses, in Exchange for the Products of those Countries, which we have already described.

Amongst the *Virgin Islands*, which are very numerous, and extend about 60 Leagues from East to West, only three, *Anguilla*, *Spanish Town*, and *Tortola*, are as yet fully inhabited by His Majesty's Subjects.

These have no immediate Intercourse with *Great Britain*, or any Part of *Europe*, and their Commerce hath hitherto been so inconsiderable, as not to deserve the Establishment of Custom House Officers to superintend it.

As to the Strength and Fortifications of these Colonies, in the Year 1724, there were 12,420 Whites in all the Islands, who are now reduced to 10,262 Persons, of which Number there are 3,284 Men, and consequently the Militia cannot exceed that Number, whereas in 1724, it consisted of 3,513 Men, divided in the following manner ;

In	{	<i>Antigua</i> ———	1,400
		<i>St. Christopher's</i> —	1,200
		<i>Nevis</i> ———	300
		<i>Montserrat</i> ———	350
			—————
			3,250

In	{	<i>Anguilla</i> ———	85
		<i>Spanish Town</i> ———	78
		<i>Tortola</i> ———	100

Total 3,513  
The

The Fortification of greatest Importance in the Island of *Antigua*, is *Monks Hill Fort*, which is at present mounted with 30 Pieces of Ordnance of different Sizes, and has a Magazine with about 400 Muskets, and 700 Bayonets, in good order : There is also another Fort in this Island, erected at the Mouth of *St. John's River*, mounted with 14 Pieces of Cannon ; and Seven other Batteries raised for the Defence of so many landing Places, which together are mounted with 46 Pieces of Ordnance.

The principal Fortification in the Island of *St. Christopher's*, is a Fort erected on *Brimstone Hill*, which is furnished with 49 Pieces of Cannon of different Dimensions, and contains a Magazine, which is at present supplied with 16,000 Pounds of Powder, 700 Firelocks, 500 Bayonets, and some other Military Stores.

*Charles Fort* is another Fortification of this Island, which is furnished with 46 Pieces of Ordnance, of different Dimensions, and a sufficient Quantity of Military Stores. Mr. *Mathew*, the present Governor of the *Leeward Islands*, informs us, that they are now employed in repairing and completing the Fortifications of *Londonderry Fort*, situated to the Eastward of the Town of *Basseterre*, which will protect that Side of the Island, and there are Six other Batteries in *St. Christopher's*, erected at so many landing Places, which together are mounted with 43 Pieces of Ordnance.

There is only One old Fort in the Island of *Nevis*, mounted with 19 Guns ; and One Fort or rather a Battery of Seven Guns in the Island of *Montserrat*, exclusive of a small Number of old dismounted Cannon, formerly planted for the Defence of different landing Places : And these Two last mentioned Islands seem at present to be incapable of putting themselves into a better Posture of Defence, having suffered very much from the Enemy in the late War, to whose Depredations they would be very much exposed in case of another.



*We come now to speak of the Bahama Islands, which are of Importance to Great Britain, on Account of their Situation, and when they shall once be fully peopled and cultivated, may also come to be considerable for their Productions and Commerce.*

THESE Productions are Salt, which is made in the Island of *Exuma*, and other of the *Bahama's*, in so large a Quantity, as would be sufficient to supply all the *English Colonies* in *America* ; Large Sugar Canes, Mahogany, Cedar and Pine fit for building Vessels, Palmetto Trees, which afford a Production called *Plat*,  
of

of which they make Hats equal to those of *Bermuda*, Manchineel Prince Wood, *Lignum Vite*, Brown Ebony of a strong Aromatick Scent, with great Quantities of Braziletto, Fustick, and other Dying Woods; Senna, Gum Elemi, Guaiacum, Mastick, with several other Gums and Medicinal Drugs; Citrons, Oranges, Limes, and other kinds of fine Fruit, are all said to be produced in the *Babama's*; their Pine-apple is thought to be the best in *America*, and their Soil is capable of bearing most Sorts of Provisions, as well as Cotton, Ginger, Sugar, Tobacco, and in general every Thing that is produced in any Part of the *West Indies*.

They have great Plenty of Turtle. They find large Quantities of Ambergrece upon their Coasts, and make Train Oil of the Whales and other Fishes which they take there.

From the Year 1723, to the Year 1728, it was computed that all their Imports from this Kingdom did not exceed the Value of *L. 2,000 per Ann.* divided upon Woollen and Silk Manufactures, *East India* Goods, Linen, Shoes, Haberdashery, and Small Wares, a small Quantity of Spice and Grocery, Stationers Goods, Arms, Ammunition, Cordage, Anchors, and some other small Articles.

They likewise take a small Quantity of Provisions from *Ireland*, as well as from *South Carolina* and other Parts of *America*, which last are paid for with Turtle and Fruit, and in exchange for their Salt, they import the Sugar and other Productions of *Jamaica*.

In the Year 1728, they computed Five hundred White Persons on the Island of *Providence*, which is the only one of the *Babama's* that is peopled in any Degree, out of whom they have formed Six Companies of Militia, which with one Independent Company in His Majesty's Pay, is all the Military Force in these Islands.

For many Years past there hath been one Fort in the Island of *Providence*, and in 1728, they began to build another, to command the East Entrance of the Harbour, which are all the regular Fortifications in the *Babama's*.



*It now remains, that we give your Lordships  
an Account of the like Particulars in the  
Bermuda or Summer Islands;*

**W**Hose Productions are Cedar, Palmetto Trees, and Train Oil drawn from the small Whales that are taken on their Coasts, with small Quantities of Tobacco, Pine-apples, Oranges, Onions, Potatoes, and Cabbages.

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Of the Tops of Palmetto Trees they make the abovementioned Straw called *Plat*, which is worked up in Hats for the Use of Women, which bear the Name of these Islands: But the most material Article in their present Trade, is that of Sloops built of their own Cedar, which are distinguished likewise by the Name of the Islands, and are equally remarkable for their Form and the Excellency of their sailing.

The People of *Bermuda's* build annually between Twenty and Thirty Sloops, which generally sail out in Ballast to the Salt Islands, from whence they carry Salt to some Part of the *English* Continent of *America*, where they traffick for Lumber and Provisions; and when they are not able to purchase a Cargo, they take one in upon Freight, and so sail to the *British* Islands in *America*, or from one Part of the Continent to another, and having at last disposed of their Sloop, they return to *Bermuda's* in order to build a new Vessel for an Adventure of the like nature.

This is the ordinary Round of Trade pursued by Four Parts in Five of all the Vessels that are sent out of the *Summer Islands*; and by the Sale of these Sloops, the *Bermudians* are supplied with Pieces of Eight, and with Sugar, Rum, Rice, Cocoa, Pitch and Tar, Logwood, and other dying Stuffs, Deer Skins, and other Productions of *America*, which being added to their Plat, and sent to *England*, they are thereby enabled to take off large Quantities of our Woollen Manufactures, *East India* Goods, Linen, Household Furniture, Haberdashery, and in general all those Commodities which are comprehended by Merchants under the Denomination of Dry Goods.

In the Year 1729, there were upwards of 5,000 White Persons in the *Summer Islands*, who are divided into Eight Tribes; and the Militia consists of one Company of Foot drawn from each Tribe, which together form a Regiment of about 1,000 Men; and these with one Independent Company in His Majesty's Pay, and one Troop of Horse of about 100 Men, exclusive of Officers, is all the Military Force in these Islands.

The Fortifications in the *Bermuda's* are the *King's Fort*, mounted with 29 Pieces of Ordnance, and Six other open Batteries, mounted with 41 Guns, but for several Years past they have all been in a very ruinous Condition.

HAVING thus described the present State of our Island Colonies in the *West Indies*, with respect to their Trade, their Strength, and Fortifications; we come now to that Part of your Lordships Address, which requires us to give our Opinion of what may be further necessary for the Encouragement of the Trade, and Security of these Islands; whereupon we beg leave to observe to your Lordships, that as Sugar is the Production of greatest Consequence in *Barbadoes*, the *Leeward Islands*, and *Jamaica*, the Prosperity of those Colonies will therefore depend in great Measure upon the Consumption of that Commodity in His Majesty's Dominions, and the Price it will sell for in the other Markets of *Europe*.

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The use of Sugar in this Kingdom has augmented very much in the last 30 Years, which is undoubtedly owing to the increased Consumption of Tea and Coffee within that Period; but on the other Hand, our Exportations of this Commodity have of late Years diminished very considerably, which must be attributed to the great Encrease of the *French* Plantations, and the large Quantities of Sugar brought into *Europe* from those Settlements, as well as by the *Dutch* and *Portuguese*, which may be afforded, and are actually sold much cheaper than Sugars imported from the *English* Colonies.

The principal Causes that concur in creating this Difference in the Price between *English* and Foreign Sugar, are the great Charges attending our Navigation, the high Duties imposed upon our Sugars at Importation, the Importation of *French* Sugars into *Ireland*, and above all, the great Expence our Planters are at in cultivating this Commodity; some of our Sugar Islands being almost worn out, especially *Barbadoes*, where many more Hands, and much more Manure are requisite than in the fresh Lands lately planted by the *French* in *Hispaniola*, and other Parts of the *West Indies*.

With respect to the Charges of our Navigation, it would be impossible to give our Traders any Relief in this Particular, without breaking through some established Customs, and making great Alterations in several Laws, by which many general Charges have been imposed upon Shipping, for the Repair of Peers and Light-houses; but they have long been desirous of the Liberty of carrying their Sugars directly to all the *European* Markets, to the Southward of *Cape Finisterre*; and we would humbly submit it to your Lordships, whether such a Liberty might not be granted under proper Restrictions.

They likewise propose, that the Reduction should be made upon the Duties payable upon Rum imported into *Great Britain*, apprehending that such a Reduction would not interfere with the Sale of our *British* Spirits, but rather with *French* Brandies and other Foreign Spirits, which carry great Sums of Money out of the Kingdom, whereas Rum is paid for in our own Manufactures.

With respect to the Advantage which the *French* derive from the Freshness of their Sugar Plantations, it is impossible to prescribe any Remedy which might put our Planters in *Barbadoes*, and the greatest Part of the *Leeward Islands*, upon a Par with them in this Particular, because, as we have already observed, the Soil of those Countries, especially *Barbadoes*, is much exhausted.

But in the Island of *Jamaica* there are very large Tracts of Lands proper for bearing Sugar Canes, and capable of most other *American* Productions, which have not yet been cultivated; and we are sorry to observe to your Lordships, that the most fertile and best situated Lands in this Colony have been formerly granted to private Persons in such exorbitant Quantities, that at present there remains very little or no Land for the Reception of new Comers, unless they purchase it at a very high Price, except in such Parts of the Island as are very much exposed, and lie under such Disadvantages as may justly deter Men from settling upon them.

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We conceive the best Means of promoting the Prosperity of *Jamaica*, and of securing the Possession of it to *Great Britain*, would be to take all possible Methods to people it with White Inhabitants, and to encourage every kind of Agriculture proper for the Soil, and capable of being carried on by People of small Substance; but though we have long understood this to be the principal Interest of *Jamaica*, we conceive it impossible to invent Methods of attracting new Inhabitants thither, whilst the Lands of the Country remain confined, as they are at present, in the Possession of a few wealthy Planters.

The People of *Jamaica* have appeared so sensible of these Truths, and of the ill Consequences that might arise from them, that in the Year 1722. they made a Law for vesting all such Lands in the Crown, for which the Proprietors had paid no Quit Rents, within a certain time, upon Condition that the Lands, so forfeited, should be regranted in small Parcels to new Inhabitants, under certain Conditions mentioned in the Act.

Four other Acts were afterwards passed; for purchasing more Land to the Publick; for the Use and Encouragement of New-comers; for building a Town to be called by the Name of *Portland*; and for forming a Settlement at *Port Antonio*, which is a Port of Consequence in the North East Part of *Jamaica*.

But either these Acts were insufficient to effectuate the Purposes for which they were designed, or the Execution of them hath been evaded, or the Intention of them weakened by subsequent Laws; because those Lands have not been purchased by new Inhabitants, but for the most part lie still uncultivated, and the Island is more destitute than ever of White Inhabitants.

We are humbly of Opinion therefore, that if the People of *Jamaica* will not be induced to frame an Act, which may divest particular Persons of those extensive Tracts which now lie uncultivated, this may be a proper Subject for the Consideration of the *British* Parliament, by whose Authority an effectual Method may be taken, to reassume those ancient Grants that have hitherto been useless, even to their Owners, as well as the Publick; or otherwise, to put the Proprietors under a Necessity of cultivating them.

This Reform in the State of *Jamaica* will be the more necessary, as it is, in reality, the only Means that can effectually provide for the Domestic Happiness of that Island, or secure the Possession of it to *Great Britain*; and on the other hand, were that once done to the Extent the Country is capable of, it would not only be in a Condition to defend it self against any Force that could be raised by the future Enemies of *Great Britain* in *America*; but might also prove a Bulwark to the rest of His Majesty's Sugar Plantations, and be able to give them Assistance, in case of a Rupture with the *French* Colonies in their Neighbourhood, which from the Freshness and Fertility of their Soil, joyned with other Advantages in Commerce, are become very flourishing  
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It remains that we mention two other Points to your Lordships, which are essential to the Prosperity of all His Majesty's Plantations, and especially to the Island Colonies; *namely*, That the Care which hath hitherto been had to guard the Coast of *Africa*, by Ships of War, from Pirates, be duly continued, that so the Rate of Insurance, which is an heavy Clog upon Commerce, may be kept low, and our Colonies receive a constant Supply of Slaves, without which they cannot possibly subsist: *Secondly*, That in Time of War, such a Squadron of *British* Ships may be stationed in the *West Indies*, as may be able to give the Law to our Enemies at Sea; without which all other Dispositions that can be made in our Dominions there, will be fruitless; and the *French*, in case of a Rupture with that Crown, will be able both to invade our Plantations, and prey upon our Navigation, in such a manner, as might in a short time prove fatal both to one and the other.

From the Description we have given your Lordships of the *Bahama Islands* in the foregoing part of this Representation, it might be highly reasonable to expect great Advantages in Trade from Countries that abound with Productions of so rich a Nature, if those Islands were fully peopled; but hitherto the Number of their Inhabitants hath been too small to admit of a considerable Trade, and until they shall be encreased, we cannot propose any new Improvements with respect to their Commerce.

We beg leave however to observe to your Lordships, that these Islands, which lie in the Gulph of *Florida*, and near the Windward Passage, may, from their Situation, prove of great Consequence to this Kingdom, in case of a Rupture with *Spain*, by receiving such light Frigates, as may be stationed there for the Protection of our own Trade, betwixt the Islands and Continent of *America*; or for intercepting *Spanish* or *French* Ships in their Voyages between *Europe* and the *Spanish West Indies*.

The *Bermuda* or *Summer Islands*, having for many Years been well peopled and cultivated, their Commerce hath been extended as far as can well be expected from such small Colonies; nor can we add any thing to the Account we have already given of it to your Lordships in this Report, unless they should be induced to turn some part of their Land into Vineyards, which might probably produce as good Wine as the *Madera's*.

These Islands lie in the midst of a very tempestuous Ocean, and are surrounded by a Chain of Rocks, most of which lie under Water, when the Tide is at the highest, so that their Security from the Invasions of foreign Enemies seems to be provided for by their natural Situation; and indeed it is affirmed by Voyage Writers of the best Authority, That the *Spaniards* never thought of planting a Colony in these Islands, and made no other Use of their Discovery, than to avoid them in their Navigation between *Europe* and the *Indies*.

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With Regard to your Lordships Address of the 5th of *April*, 1734. that we should revise and consider the several Proposals, that may at any time have been laid before us, relating to such Encouragements as may be necessary to engage the Inhabitants of the *British* Colonies on the Continent in *America*, to apply their Industry to the Cultivation of Naval Stores of all kinds, and likewise of such other Products as may be proper for the Soil of the said Colonies, and do not interfere with the Trade or Produce of *Great Britain*; we beg leave to acquaint your Lordships, That we have frequently represented the great Advantage that would arise to this Kingdom, from receiving such Supplies of Naval Stores from our *American* Colonies, as might render us independent of our Northern Neighbours, in an Article so highly important to the Defence, the Trade, and Navigation, of *Great Britain*: We have never failed to urge the Necessity of this Proposition, upon all fit Occasions, and the Legislature have often made it the subject of their Consideration. Hence the several Acts have taken rise, which heretofore gave *Premiums* upon the Importation of Naval Stores from the *British* Colonies in *America*, which were attended with so good Success, as to reduce the Price of some of those Stores very considerably, particularly of Pitch and Tar.

But as all these Acts expired in 1725. except those that related to Hemp, we therefore thought it our Duty to represent in the Year 1727. that it might be necessary to settle new *Premiums* upon Naval Stores, imported from our Plantations, though not in the same Degree as they had been given by the former Acts; and a Law did pass in the succeeding Session of Parliament, intituled. *An Act for better Preservation of His Majesty's Woods in America, and for the Encouragement of the Importation of Naval Stores from thence, and to encourage the Importation of Masts, Yards, and Bowsprits, from that Part of Great Britain called Scotland*; by which, Provision was made against the Destruction of His Majesty's Woods in *America*, and *Premiums* settled upon the Importation of Masts, Yards, and Bowsprits, Tar, Pitch, and Turpentine; so that Iron is the only Article of Naval Stores which remains destitute of any Encouragement upon Importation into this Kingdom from our *American* Colonies.

The Deputy Governor of *Maryland* hath informed us, by his Letter dated the 16th of *October* last, that if Iron was eased from the present Duty of Importation, a large Supply of that Commodity might be imported into this Kingdom from *Maryland*, and the Neighbouring Provinces.

He is also of Opinion that very good Wine might be made there, if the Inhabitants had proper Encouragement to attempt so new a Thing.

The Deputy Governor of *Pennsylvania* acquaints us, in his Letter dated the 31st of *October* last, that this Province produces Hemp and Iron, which last is generally allowed to be as good as any whatsoever, and, that upon proper Encouragement, *Pennsylvania*, and the Neighbouring Colonies, might be able to supply *Great Britain* with considerable Quantities of this necessary Commodity.

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He adds, that Flax is found to agree so well with their Soil, that it is not to be doubted, but a considerable Progress will soon be made in raising this Commodity : That the Mulberry Tree grows so naturally, and the Silk-worm thrives so well there, as to give them a distant Prospect of a Silk Manufacture ; and that some Essays have been made towards the manufacturing of Pot-ashes, which he believes would, with suitable Encouragement, be brought to Perfection.

The Governor of *South Carolina*, in his Letter of the 9th of *November* last, acquaints us, that hitherto Rice, Tar, and Pitch have been the Staple Commodities of that Province ; but that they have lately made some Progress towards the raising Hemp, and that Persons of Judgment believe that good Flax might also be produced there, if necessary Encouragement was given for the Propagation of it : They have made some Dispositions both here and in *Georgia*, for manufacturing Pot and Pearl Ashes, and they have lately propagated a large Number of White Mulberry-trees for the Subsistence of Silk-worms, in hopes of accomplishing a Silk Manufacture : Their Soil is also thought capable of producing good Vines ; and they have hopes, that several valuable Drugs might be produced in *Georgia*, which they design to bring from *Natolia*, *Syria*, and other Places in the Streights, that lie in the same Latitude with this Province : But the Governor adds, that *Premiums* are necessary to bring these Undertakings to perfection, which *South Carolina* is not at present able to give ; to which he adds, this Province likewise abounds with live Oak, Cyprus Trees, and other kinds of Timber, which would be proper for the Use of the Navy, if such Bounties were settled upon them as might answer the great Expence of Freight to this Kingdom, and by that means make it practicable to import them.

It may be proper for us to acquaint your Lordships under this Head, that the Liberty given by an Act passed in the Third Year of His present Majesty, for *Exporting Rice directly from South Carolina to any European Ports Southward of Cape Finisterre*, has had a very good Effect, and it being now near expiring, we would beg leave to submit to your Lordships, whether it may not deserve to be continued.

A Bill did formerly pass the House of Commons, wherein the Encouragement proposed for importing Iron in Pigs and Sows from *America*, was, the taking off the Duty payable upon it at Importation, which amounts to Three shillings and nine pence half-penny *per Ton* ; and this Encouragement would, in our Opinion, engage the Planters to furnish us with such Quantities of Iron in Pigs and Sows as might be sufficient for the Use of our Manufactures.

We import annually into this Kingdom about 20,000 Tons of this Commodity, the greatest Part of which is brought from *Sweden*, and paid for with ready Money ; so that in our humble Opinion nothing could be more prudent, or indeed more necessary for the Welfare of *Great Britain*, than to give such Encouragement to the Importation of Iron from our Plantations, which abound both with Oar and Wood for the Use of the Furnaces, as might render us independent of our Northern Neighbours, for a Supply of a Commodity so essential to the Support of our Fleet, and of our Navigation in general.

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We annually import from *Sweden* only about 14,300 Tons, which, computed at no more than 10 *l. per Ton*, would amount to upwards of 143,000 *l.* the which we pay to that Kingdom in ready Money; and therefore an Encouragement upon the Importation of this Commodity may be the more necessary at this time, because the People of *America* having discovered several Iron Mines, and set up Forges, it is to be feared, that they will work up their Iron in Manufactures, which may be prejudicial to those of this Kingdom, if some effectual Means be not found out to induce them to import it in Pigs and Sows into *Great Britain*.

Thus we have laid before your Lordships what hath occurred to us, concerning the Cultivation of Naval Stores, and such other Products as may be proper for the Soil of our *American Colonies*; and as some of them, particularly the Northern Provinces, do very much resemble *England* in their Climate, Soil, and Productions, we conceive that the most natural and the only effectual Method of keeping the People there from raising Sheep, and establishing such Manufactures as might in time be detrimental to the Trade and Manufactures of *Great Britain*, will be to continue the present Bounties upon Naval Stores, and give Encouragement to the Importation of Iron, and such other Particulars as the Wisdom of the Legislature shall think advantageous for *Great Britain* to have from those Countries, as may induce them to apply their utmost Industry in the Improvement of such necessary Commodities, of which there will always be a constant and large Consumption in His Majesty's Kingdoms.

*All which is most humbly submitted.*

Whitehall, January 14,  
1734-5.

WESTMORELAND.

P. DOCMINIQUE.

T. PELHAM.

EDW. ASHE.

ORL<sup>O</sup> BRIDGEMAN.

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